

Serial No. 10/788,941

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A new sheet of drawings including a new FIG. 12A, which depicts substantially the same subject matter shown in FIG. 12A, but includes a conductive coating with sublayers or subsections, is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 28, 2005, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-17 and 93-136 were previously pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1-3, 5, 16, 17, 94-97, 100, 101, 112-114, 116-118, 121, 122, 127, and 133-136 stand rejected, while the subject matter recited in claims 4, 6-15, 93, 98, 99, 102-111, 115, 119, 120, and 123-132 is allowable.

Claim 136 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Objections to Drawings

The drawings of the above-referenced application were objected to for not illustrating the subject matter to which claims 17, 113, 114, 134, and 135 are directed.

A new sheet of drawings, which includes FIG. 12A, is submitted with this Amendment. FIG. 12A depicts the same subject matter as that shown in Fig. 12, with the addition of multiple subregions or sublayers of the illustrated conductive coating. Support for the subject matter depicted in FIG. 12A is provided, for example, in paragraph [0077], and in claims 17, 113, 114, 134, and 135 of the as-filed application.

Corresponding revisions to the specification have been presented for the sake of consistency, and to provide reference to FIG. 12A and the subject matter depicted therein.

As the drawings of the above-referenced application now depict each and every claim element, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objections to Title

The Office has objected to the title for not accurately summarizing the claimed subject matter. While it is believed that the title accurately and broadly reflects the subject matter recited in the claims, the title has been amended to indicate that the claimed electrical contacts include dielectric cores.

The amendment to the title should not be construed to limit the claims.

Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 136 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for reciting substantially the same subject matter as that recited in claim 95.

Claim 136 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It should be understood that the subject matter recited in claim 116, from which claim 136 depended, is broader than that recited in claim 95.

It is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 136 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 116, 117, and 127 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for reciting subject matter that is allegedly anticipated by the subject matter described in U.S. Patent 4,969,842 to Davis (hereinafter “Davis”).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Davis describes an electrical connector with elongate molded sections 32 that are oriented parallel to a semiconductor device component 60 with which they are to establish electrical communication. Each of the elongate molded sections 32 of Davis includes a polymer core and a conductive surface 44. Each elongate molded section 32 is configured to extend over an edge of the semiconductor device component 60 in such a way that a conductive coating 48 on a convex contact section 46 thereof electrically communicates with a pad 62 of the semiconductor device component.

Independent claim 116 is directed to a contact for a semiconductor device component. The contact includes a core and a conductive coating on at least a portion of the core. As amended and presented herein, independent claim 116 recites that the core, which comprises

dielectric material, is configured to be secured to and protrude from a contact pad of a semiconductor device component.

While the elongate molded sections 32 of the electrical connector described in Davis may, when a semiconductor device component is assembled with the electrical connector, be configured to protrude from a contact pad of a semiconductor device component, Davis does not expressly or inherently describe that the elongate molded sections 32 are configured to be secured to contact pads. To the contrary, the electrical connector described in Davis is a so-called “card edge connector” (col. 3, lines 1-2) with compliant beam contacts 46 (col. 4, lines 49-51), which establish electrical communication as portions of the beam contacts 46 are biased against corresponding conductors (*see, e.g.*, col. 2, lines 14-32).

Therefore, Davis does not anticipate each and every element to which amended independent claim 116 is directed. As such, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the subject matter to which amended independent claim 116 is directed is allowable over the subject matter described in Davis.

Claims 117 and 127 are both allowable, among other reasons, for respectively depending directly and indirectly from claim 116, which is allowable.

Claim 117 is additionally allowable for depending from claims 126 and 123, which the Office has already indicated to be allowable. *See* Office Action of October 28, 2005, page 5.

It is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of claims 116, 117, and 127 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 16, 17, 94-97, 100, 101, 112-114, 118, 121, 122, 127, and 133-136 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for reciting subject matter which is assertedly unpatentable over the teachings of Davis.

The standard for establishing and maintaining a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is set forth in M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j), which provides:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The teachings of Davis have been summarized above. Most notably, the elongate molded sections 32 of the electrical connector disclosed in Davis are configured to be oriented parallel to a semiconductor device component 60 with which they are configured to establish electrical communication.

The contacts recited in amended independent claims 1 and 95, in contrast, include cores that are configured to protrude from semiconductor device components in a generally transverse orientation relative to planes of the semiconductor device components.

As Davis does not provide any teaching, suggestion, or other motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the elongate molded sections in a transverse orientation relative to a plane of a semiconductor device component, Davis cannot be relied upon to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the subject matter recited in independent claim 1 or independent claim 95.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 16, 17, 93, and 94 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly from claim 1, which is allowable.

Each of claims 96, 97, 100, 101, and 112-114 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 95, which is allowable.

Claims 118, 121, 122, 127, and 133-135 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 116, which is allowable.

Claims 5, 101, and 122 are additionally allowable since the disclosure of Davis is limited to use of moldable polymers; Davis includes no teaching or suggestion that a photoimageable

polymer may be used to form a core of an elongate molded section 32 of the electrical connector disclosed therein.

Claim 136 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-3, 5, 16, 17, 94-97, 100, 101, 112-114, 118, 121, 122, 127, and 133-136 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that each of claims 4, 6-15, 93, 98, 99, 102-111, 115, 119, 120, 123-126, and 128-132 is directed to allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. None of these claims has been amended to independent form, however, as the claims from which they depend are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-3, 5, 16, 17, 94-97, 100, 101, 112-114, 116-118, 121, 122, 127, and 133-135 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: New Sheet of Drawings

Document in ProLaw